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Then came the time when the men had to do a lot of trail building. 159x
The chiefs told all the women, even the widows, to cook and go with the men to work on the trail. Kolpada went with Langmai. She said to him, "Go cut wood and give it to my mother and father." So he did. I was still sleeping in the house with a fever. They didn't give me even a little of the wood. Kolpada took it all and gave it to her parents, all of it. She didn't say, "Give a little of it to your first wife." When Langmai went to do trail work, she cooked his provisions for him. [Kolmani lifted her eyebrows, rolled her eyes, and looked outraged.] I spoke to Langmai, saying, "Your wife cooked food and followed you. Now when taxes are due, she can take things to Kalabahi to sell and raise tax money for you." I ran away to stay with my uncle Padalang. I stayed four months. [Stop.] When the work was finished, Langmai came back.

Meanwhile the husband of his "sister" at Riye had died and she had married her brother-in-law. She stayed with him until her body got thin, and then she came back here. [She was apparently ill treated.] Her husband followed her. Langmai at this time had caught some shrimps and was sitting by the trail cooking them when this husband, Malbata, came along. He asked, "Is this Langmai who sits here?" Langmai said it was. Malbata said, "Give me back my bride-price." Langmai said, "I didn't drag your wife here. She came herself." Then they fought back and forth until they were tired out and couldn't fight any more. Malbata tied the tail of Langmai's loincloth to his own and said, "Now we shall sit here together until you pay my expenses." [Stop.] At that time I wanted to go to Rualmelang, but Malbata's first wife came along and said, "Who is that woman? Perhaps it is Langmai's wife. People say he is married to a widow now [his "sister"], so we had better catch his first wife and marry her to another man for the three mokos her husband owes us." I ran away. My uncle Padalang said to her, "You must not take her [Kolmani] away. I shall look for a husband for her. When her bride-price comes in, I shall pay it to you." He was lying, but I did not know that. Padalang then went with Malbata's 159x 694
wife to litigate before the chief of Hatoberka. I ran away. Langmai was called to the litigation, and again the two sat down and tied the tails of their loincloths together. [Stop.] Malbata had given the chief of Hatoberka a chicken and a Fatafa moko so the chief would pass judgment in his favor. The chief did not want to tie up Langmai, because he was his Male House. So the chief said, "He is my Male House and I do not want to tie him up. You had better tie him up yourself and take him to 662 431 692

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159 694 Dikimpe, where the soldiers are now." So Malbata got young bamboo, split it, made a rope, and tied it around Langmai's neck and led him off. As they came near here they met Kapitan Jacob, who was Langmai's Female House. Kapitan Jacob saw them and said, "Who has tied up my Female House relative?" He untied the rope from around Langmai's neck. Then Malbata was afraid and took his case, not to the kapitan, but to the chief of Dikimpe. The chief said to wait a moment because he was going down to the other end of the village. Malbata was afraid the chief would call the soldiers, and he ran away. Then Kapitan Jacob said, "Oh, maybe you are one of the government officials and can tie up your subjects? Now you have let your bride-price go free. Now you can't ask for it any more." [Stop.]

159 [I reminded her that I wanted personal anecdotes. She said Yes, and repeated the content of the last few sentences without elaboration.]

When Langmai came back, I said, "You left me and went to stay with your widow. People came and tied you up. They put a rope around your neck. They didn't do that to you when you stayed with me." After that he lived with me, and for a time we stayed at Maikalieta's house again. Then we built the house we are in now and lived together. [Stop.] He said to me, "Kolmani, you stay as you are. Maybe you have become barren." I said, "You speak badly to me. You were the one who said to me that I could eat my own child and be replete. I guess I shall leave you permanently." [Stop.]

Langmai went to the chief and talked with him, saying, "I am alone. My brothers are all dead. My wife does not become pregnant. Perhaps I shall have no children." I too thought within my heart, "I have no family and am alone. Perhaps I shan't have any more children." [She here repeated the insult about eating her child and told how she went at the time to complain of it to her uncle Fanseni and her aunt Maraipada.

159 842 She said that at that time her uncle had urged her aunt to give her a contraceptive. The blame for this immoral procedure was thus placed on her uncle and aunt.] So Maraipada gave me some medicine, which I ate. Then I didn't conceive for three years, and during that time my aunt and uncle died. I thought, "My husband is speaking the truth. Neither of us has a family. What shall I do to have children?" So I

159 842 787 went to Maikalieta's second wife, who divined and discovered that the cause of my barrenness was the medicine Maraipada had given me. Then she divined to see whether we should feed my aunt's and uncle's souls before using an antidote. [Stop.] I and Lonmobi went to feed the dead people's souls. She too had eaten Maraipada's medicine. As we